



NEWS RELEASE

Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police

Contact: Maria Hawke
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-791-4852
On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

Date: 11/20/2013
TDD: 791-2639

METAL THEFT INVESTIGATION AND ARREST 3950 EAST IRVINGTON ROAD

On November 14, 2013, personnel from the Tucson Electric Power (TEP) Company contacted the Tucson Police Department to initiate an investigation into suspected metal theft that occurred at the main power plant facility located at 3950 East Irvington Road. Tucson Electric Power employees indicated that they believed that copper wire, both scrap wire and new wire, was stolen from the main power plant at some point between the dates of November 9, 2013 and November 11, 2013. The value of the stolen copper wire was estimated at approximately \$2800.00 and had an approximate length of 150 feet. Investigators assigned to the Pawn/Metal Theft Unit located the stolen wire and recovered it from a local scrap yard. They also identified the person responsible for the copper wire theft and subsequent transaction at the local scrap yard. He was identified as Manuel Castaneda, 31-years old. The investigators additionally learned that Mr. Castaneda had scrapped over 1,000 pounds of copper wire between the dates of November 6, 2013 and November 10, 2013 at a second scrap yard location. This additional wire was also recovered. Further investigation revealed that Mr. Castaneda had been involved in scrapping various metals over an approximately 1-year period of time, earning over \$13,000.00 in profit during that time period. It was discovered that Mr. Castaneda worked for a subcontractor of a general contractor, who worked at the TEP main power plant. He used his position as a subcontractor employee to gain access to TEP secured lots and facilities. Ultimately, Mr. Castaneda was arrested on the November 19, 2013 for 2 counts of Theft, a class 5 felony, and 2 counts of Trafficking in Stolen Property, a class 2 felony. He was transported and booked into the Pima County Jail. A booking photograph of Mr. Castaneda is included below. The investigation continues with respect to Mr. Castaneda's activities, as it is possible that there are additional victims in various areas of Pima and Cochise counties.

The Tucson Police Department would like to commend the actions of the scrap yards, who were involved in this recent investigation and whose cooperation greatly contributed to the quick resolution of the investigation. Both local scrap yards appropriately documented the transactions involving the scrap copper wire that they purchased from Mr. Castaneda. By following the Arizona State laws and protocols related to the purchase and sale of scrap metals, these businesses played an integral part in the successful recovery of the stolen wire as well as of the identification of Mr. Castaneda. The businesses truly became a partner with Tucson Police Department personnel through the course of this investigation.

Page 1 of 2

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.



CITY OF TUCSON



Ready to Protect,
Proud to Serve

NEWS RELEASE

Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police



Manuel Castaneda

####

Page 2 of 2

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipació.

tucsonaz.gov